

other means of educating the man in the street will be adopted. The Society also proposes to take part in the meetings of quacks, in order to confute their arguments and expose their misstatements. A weekly journal is to be founded, in which all the misdeeds of quacks will be published and brought to the notice of the police authorities. The Society will do its utmost to influence legislation for the repression of quackery and to ensure the enforcement of existing laws. The subscription has been fixed at 1 mark, in order to make the membership of the Society accessible to all who are interested in the promotion of its objects. Among the members of the Prussian Chamber who have already joined the Society are Prince von Arenberg, Graf von Douglas, Herr Kopsch, manufacturer, and Privy Councillor Paasche. Full particulars may be obtained from Professor Sommerfeld, Wilsnackerstrasse 52, or Dr. Siefert, Tauenzienstrasse 3, Berlin.

#### VOLUNTEER MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual dinner of the Yeomanry and Volunteer Medical Officers will take place at the Hotel Cecil, London, on April 21st next at 7.30 p.m. Major-General Sir A. E. Turner, K.C.B., R.A., will take the chair and will be supported by Surgeon-General Sir William Taylor, K.C.B., Director-General, A.M.S., and other distinguished guests. Tickets (10s. 6d. each) may be obtained from Lieutenant E. C. Montgomery-Smith, 36, Abbey Road, N.W.

THE German Society of Naturalists and Medical Practitioners will hold its seventy-fifth annual meeting this year at Cassel, September 20th to 26th.

ON June 24th, when the Prince and Princess of Wales will receive the honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Music respectively from the University of London, the honorary degree of Doctor of Science will be conferred on Lord Lister and Lord Kelvin.

A MEETING of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health is to be held on Friday, April 3rd, at 3 p.m. Dr. Joseph Groves will open a discussion upon Public Health Administration, and will, we understand, deal with the Public Health Bill promoted by the British Medical Association.

DR. LOUIS HEISLER HALL, of Faulkland, Delaware, who was recently elected to the United States Senate from Delaware, is, we believe, the second member of the medical profession in active practice who has a seat in the United States Senate. The other Senator is Dr. Gallinger, of New Hampshire, who has taken a prominent part in the anti-vivisection crusade in America.

THE subject of the Rogers Prize to be conferred by the University of London in 1904 will be the Relation of Tuberculosis and Streptotrichosis from a Pathological Point of View. Particulars may be had on application to the Secretary to the Senate.

WE are requested to state that the excursion to the northern spas of England, to which reference was made in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of March 21st, is not confined to members of the Balneological and Climatological Society. The object of the excursion is to make the merits of our native health resorts as widely known as possible among members of the medical profession of the country.

It is announced that Dr. Alfred Hill has resigned the office of Medical Officer of Health to the City of Birmingham, which he has held since 1872. Dr. Hill is in the 77th year of his age, and by his devoted labours has earned the gratitude of the city which he has served so well and the admiration of all interested in the progress of the science of State-medicine, which he has done so much to promote.

THEIR Majesties the King and Queen have intimated their intention of attending the afternoon service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, June 7th, on which day the collections at the services in the Cathedral will be devoted to the hospitals and dispensaries of the metropolis through the Hospital Sunday Fund.

AN International Health Resorts Exhibition is to be held at Vienna this year, from September 12th to October 20th. The exhibition will consist of pictures, panoramic views, and raised maps and plans of health resorts, with details as to the composition of waters, special treatment, climatic conditions, musical and other entertainments, promenades, etc., and last, but not least, as to the cost of living and treatment.

A DISCUSSION on the present methods of treating tuberculosis will be held at the Hunterian Society on the evenings of Wednesdays, April 8th and 22nd, commencing at 8.30 p.m. The discussion will be introduced by the President, Dr. Stephen H. Appleford. It will be continued in sections as follows:—Wednesday, April 8th: (1) Comparison between the Treatment in Sanatoria and in Private Practice, opened by Dr. Newton Pitt; (2) Influence of Location, opened by Dr. H. G. Felkin; (3) Selection and Classification of Patients in Sanatoria, opened by Dr. T. N. Kelynack. Wednesday, April 22nd: (4) Infection, Reinfection, and Multiple Infection, opened by Dr. Arnold Chaplin; (5) The Surgical Aspect, opened by Mr. W. Knight Treves; (6) Suggested Modifications, with respect to Comfort, Exercise, Rest, and Recreation, opened by Dr. Glover Lyon. There will be an exhibition of plans and models of sanatoria. The discussion will be held in the theatre of the London Institute, Finsbury Institute, Finsbury Circus, E.C., where a lantern and screen will be available for the exhibition of slides.

#### MEDICAL NOTES IN PARLIAMENT.

[FROM OUR LOBBY CORRESPONDENT.]

**The Standard of Recruits and Enlistment.**—Both Houses were engaged last week in considering the character and physique of recruits, and on Wednesday, at midnight, a resolution was passed in the Commons in favour of requiring greater care to obtain adequate physique and to ensure that each recruit was 18 years of age. In the course of the debate Lord Stanley, who is now a very powerful-looking man, said that he was once himself a "special," being underweight, but drill and good food had removed the disqualification. On Thursday the subject cropped up in the Lords, on a question put by Lord Denman. Lord Hardwicke stated that the present standard of height for recruits entering the infantry of the line was 5 ft. 3 in. It was the same in January, 1899. He could not give the average chest measurement during the past year because a new system had been introduced. Under the old system no recruit was accepted, except as a special, whose minimum chest measurement was less than 33 in. But, in accordance with the report of a Committee of Military and Civilian Doctors, another system was introduced on April 1st last year. The chest was measured first when fully expanded; secondly, when relaxed; and if there was a difference of not less than 2 in. between the two measurements the recruit was accepted. If it were less than 2 in. he was not accepted. Since the introduction of this system no man had been accepted who did not comply with those conditions. In future it was intended to issue a return showing the average height, chest measurement, and the weight of every recruit on enlistment. Then, after he had completed six months' service and gone through gymnastic training, he would again be measured, and if he had not, according to the requirements laid down by the Committee, increased his physical development to the extent considered necessary he would not be allowed to remain in the Army. When this return was published it would show the exact extent to which every recruit developed after six months' training in the service. There was some amusement caused by the chest expansion being called the "blown-out" condition of the recruit by Lord Ribblesdale, who wanted to know the irreducible minimum. This depended, it was pointed out, on the physical development of each recruit.

**The Pay of Captains R.A.M.C.**—On Tuesday Dr. Thompson asked the Secretary of State for War if he was aware that the captains of the Royal Army Medical Corps now attending a professional course in London and residing at the temporary college in the Hotel Belgravia received an allowance at the rate of 5s. 6d., although lieutenants on probation received an allowance at the rate of 9s.; and if he would give directions to remove this difference. Mr. Secretary Brodrick replied that lieutenants on probation received allowances for servants, lodgings, and fuel and light, amounting to about 4s., and also drew mess allowance of 4s. Captains drew the former class of allowances, amounting to about 5s. The question of the grant of the 4s. mess allowance to them was under consideration.

**The Volunteer Service and the Royal Commission.**—Mr. Remnant asked the First Lord of the Treasury on Tuesday if he would consider the advisability of including a Volunteer medical officer among the members of the Royal Commission to be appointed to consider the Volunteer Service. Mr. Secretary Brodrick answered that he feared he could not promise to include officers of the various departmental corps on the Commission.

**Royal Engineer Civil Staff and Vaccination.**—Last week Mr. Charles Hobhouse asked the Secretary of State for War if he was aware that an officer of the Royal Army Medical Staff required civilian clerks in temporary employ on royal engineering works to be vaccinated as a condition of employment; and would he say whether this action had received his sanction. Mr. Secretary Brodrick referred in his reply to a previous answer which he had given, to the effect that the General Officer Commanding Home District had issued orders about a year ago, during the small-pox epidemic, that such clerks were not to be taken on if they refused vaccination.

**Vaccination Officers and Legal Assistance.**—Sir Charles M'Laren asked the President of the Local Government Board, on Friday in last week, if his attention had been called to representations of the Hinckley Guardians as to the state of the law as to the control of vaccination officers; and whether he would take steps to prevent these officials engaging legal advisers without consultation with, or the consent of, the guardians. Mr. Long replied that his attention had been called to representations made by the guardians on the subject. As regards the last part of the question, he pointed out that the duty of the vaccination officer to take proceedings in cases of default was quite independent of any directions from the guardians. In cases where the guardians were opposed to the enforcement of the Vaccination Acts, it would obviously be impossible for the vaccination officer to carry out the duty referred to if he had to obtain the consent of the guardians to the legal assistance which was requisite for the purpose; and he was advised that it was a necessary incident of the statutory duty of the vaccination officer that he should have authority to engage legal assistance where this was required.

**The Vaccination Acts and the Conscientious Objector.**—Mr. Levy asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department last week whether his attention had been directed to the refusal of the justices of the Altrincham Petty Sessions on the 16th instant to grant a certificate of exemption under the Vaccination Act to an applicant who stated he had a conscientious objection to vaccination, and whether he could take any steps in the matter. Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas replied that he had no information as to the case referred to. Certificates of exemption were, by law, to be granted when the justices were satisfied that the applicant had a conscientious objection, and the Secretary of State had no authority to intervene in the matter.

**The Irish Poor-law Medical Service.**—On Monday last Dr. Thompson asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he would consent to the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the grievances of the Irish Poor-law Medical Service, and also into the question of the administration of the Poor Law, the condition of the workhouses, and the treatment and management of the poor in these institutions. Mr. Wyndham replied that the Government was about to appoint a Commission to consider the general question of the amalgamation of unions and the amelioration of the condition of all classes of destitute poor in workhouses. The grievance of the Irish Poor-law medical officers, which could only be remedied at the ratepayers' ex-

pense, was another matter, and any amendment of the law on this subject would be highly contentious. He should, therefore, be sorry to see it brought within the scope of a Commission through which it was hoped to ensure a more economical administration of the Poor Law.

**The Adulterated Butter Bill.**—This Bill came on for second reading on Tuesday afternoon and occupied most of the sitting. Mr. Kearley moved the rejection of the Bill in a long speech, in which he argued against any slackening of the law, and advocated the maintenance of the 16 per cent. standard for all butter. Mr. Lough also opposed the Bill, which was supported generally from the Irish benches. Sir Walter Foster, speaking from the front Opposition bench, said it was best to have a standard and stick to it, and he criticized the Bill for departing from the 16 per cent. standard for water in butter laid down by the order of the Agricultural Department, and substituting a more or less elastic limit of 20 per cent. In this way the general standard would be lowered. He suggested that the difficulty of Irish firkin butter should be met by a time limit for attaining the proper standard. In that way manufacture would be gradually improved. He strongly opposed the proposal in the second clause to call milk-blended butter "adulterated" butter. On the face of it the clause legalized the sale of an adulterated article, which was a new principle, and he objected to the term as inapplicable to a wholesome article of food, which was sold at a cheap price and was correctly described. Mr. Hanbury, in reply, defended the Bill, and especially argued for the retention of the word "adulterated" as applied to watered butters. He admitted the difficulty with regard to Irish firkin butter, and was willing to make terms for its continuance, and he would generally consider amendments on all the points raised in committee. After some further debate the Bill was read a second time without a division and referred to the Standing Committee on Trade.

**Imbecile Children and the Darenth Asylum.**—On Tuesday Mr. Remnant asked the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention had been called to the proposal of the Metropolitan Asylums Board to remove the improvable imbecile children back to the Darenth Asylum, where unimprovable imbecile children were retained; and, if so, what steps he proposed to take in the matter. Mr. Long replied that he had received from the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylums District a proposal with regard to imbecile accommodation and classification at Darenth. Their proposal seemed to be that the present schools should be used as a training school for improvable children; that the present adult asylum should be used as an industrial colony for improvable adults; and that the pavilions should be utilized for the quite unimprovable younger patients until such time as these buildings would be needed for the extension of the industrial colony. The managers proposed that the Brighton Road Schools at Sutton should be used for the accommodation of unimprovable imbeciles. It was necessary for him to obtain further information before he could form a definite opinion with regard to the proposal, and he was at present in communication with the managers on the subject.

**The Sale of Poisons.**—At the instance of the Pharmaceutical Society, Mr. Thomas Lough introduced on March 26th a Bill to amend the law with regard to the sale of poisons. The promoters represent, as one defect to be remedied, that the Companies Acts enable unqualified and incompetent persons to escape the incidence of the Pharmacy Act of 1868, under which the sale of poisons is regulated. The second defect in the law is that under the existing legal procedure it is only possible to prosecute the actual seller of a poison, who is frequently merely an assistant in the shop, while the real offender—the employer, who causes the offence to be committed—cannot be proceeded against. The Bill now introduced would alter this by making the master fully responsible for the acts of his servants. It also provides means, such as do not at present exist, of ascertaining readily—(1) in what shops poisons are retailed, and (2) whether the persons in charge of the business at such places are duly qualified or not.

**Reception of Lunatics.**—In the House of Lords, on the motion of Earl Carrington, a first reading was given to a Bill to authorize the London County Council to provide houses for the reception of lunatics or others mentally afflicted pending their removal to asylums.